

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

DOT-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /097 W

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R 180540Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6179

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0756

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT IMCO ID MS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GROUNDING OF JAPANESE TANKER

REF: A. STATE 011235 B. SINGAPORE 252 C. JAKARTA 665

D. KL 321

1. WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION
OF FORSTALLING POSSIBLE UNILATERAL ACTION BY
INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE FOLLOWING SHOWA
MARU ACCIDENT BUT, FOR REASONS OUTLINED BELOW,
DO NOT BELIEVE US INITIATIVE NECESSARY AT THIS TIME.
END SUMMARY

2. ALTHOUGH GOI HAS PUBLICLY EXPLOITED SHOWA MARU
INCIDENT TO BOLSTER ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIM OVER
MALACCA STRAITS AND TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR JOINT
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COASTAL REGULATION OVER SHIPPING FOR SAFETY AND

ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE INCIDENT HAS HARDENED INDONESIA'S POSITION ON ARCHIPELAGO OR STRAITS ISSUE. CHIEF GOI LOS NEGOTIATOR AIR MARSHALL SOEDARMONO TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 17 (SEPTTEL) THAT HE IS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON ARCHIPELAGO AND STRAITS MATTERS AND DID NOT INDICATE THAT SHOWA MARU INCIDENT HAD INFLUENCED GOI POSITION. GOI PUBLIC REACTION TO INCIDENT APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO PRESSURE SINGAPORE INTO MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON STRAITS.

3. UNILATERAL ADOPTION BY COASTAL STATES OF TONNAGE LIMITATIONS, WHICH THEY WOULD REGARD AS BINDING, WOULD REQUIRE SINGAPORE TO ALTER ITS LONG HELD VIEW THAT STRAITS OF MALACCA ARE INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO COASTAL REGULATION.

4. AS INDICATED REF B, EVEN IF GOI WERE TO ALTER ITS VIEW AND AGREE ON TONNAGE REGULATIONS, IT WOULD STILL PROBABLY INSIST ON CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEFORE ADOPTION. IN ANY CASE, AGREEMENT AMONG THREE COUNTRIES ON TONNAGE LIMITATIONS IS NOT LEIKELY BEFORE TRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL MEETING REPORTEDLY AGREED TO BY LEE AND RAZAK(REF B). FOREIGN MINSITER MALIK EVIDENTLY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF RAZAK-LEE AGREEMENT TO TRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL MEETING WHEN TO TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 16 THAT THERE NO AGREEMENT FOR SUCH MEETING (REF C). ON JANUARY 17 MALIK ISSUED STATEMENT WELCOMING AGREEMENT TO MEET AND DISCUSS NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY AND COMPENSATION MATTERS. THUS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT, AT THIS TIME, REF A PROPOSAL RE IMCO ACTION ON TANKER LIMITATIONS IS NECESSARY TO HEAD OFF UNILATERAL ACTION BY THREE COUNTRIES.

5. MOREOVER, IF US WERE TO PUSH FOR SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL, THERE IS POSSIBLE RISK THAT GOI WOULD MISINTERPRET OUT ACTION AS ATTEMPT TO PUCH THEM TOWARD RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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NATUJE OF STRAITS BEFORE THEY HAVE OBTAINED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF ARCHIPELAGIO CONCEPT. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: johnsorg
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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